

SLIPPERFUND

Fact Sheet

BUNKER HILL
Kellogg, Idaho



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

January 2001

This fact sheet summarizes cleanup activities at Bunker Hill during the 2000 summer and fall construction season. We also want to let you know about upcoming events for the year 2001.

Highlights:

- The first phase of the House Dust Pilot Study is complete. Preliminary results will be available to participating homeowners in early 2001.
- A Treatability Study on different technologies for the Central Treatment Plant was completed.
- The entire Central Impoundment Area project should be done by spring 2001.
- McKinley Avenue will be ready to re-open within the next year.
- Follow up blood testing for children with elevated blood-lead levels will be offered in January.
- Look for more revegetation efforts in 2001.

House Dust Pilot Study: First Phase Completed

From August until November of 2000, the EPA, the State of Idaho and its contractor, Terragraphics, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, started and completed most of the House Dust Pilot Study. Eighteen houses were sampled and additional sampling at these same houses will take place in 2001. The purpose of the study is to evaluate three methods of cleaning homes to determine how effective they are in reducing contaminated dust in the homes.

The least intensive method consisted of basic "spring cleaning", vacuuming floors and washing walls. The second method involved a more intensive cleaning of all surfaces including duct work cleaning, steam cleaning carpets, cleaning all appliances, emptying closets and drawers, and

cleaning interior surfaces. The third method was the most intensive. It involved completely moving out personal belongings and furnishings, removal and disposal of rugs and cloth furniture. All surfaces were cleaned using personnel trained in lead abatement.

Samples of household dust were collected before and after cleaning. Sampling will occur twice more: in 6 months, and in 12 months. A report will document for each cleaning method: the technical process, the effectiveness in reducing lead levels, the costs, and the logistics involved. The results from the House Dust Pilot Study will be used to choose the most effective cleaning method and cost, if a large scale cleanup of home interiors is necessary for the Bunker Hill project. Preliminary results will be made available to participating homeowners in the first quarter of 2001. **Contact: Elizabeth.V.Dierich (206) 764-3265.**

Treatability Study Completed for Central Treatment Plant

EPA completed a study to evaluate the ability of three different technologies to treat acid mine drainage from the Bunker Hill mine. Initial testing in a laboratory and more testing at the Central Treatment Plant demonstrated that installing filters will successfully reduce suspended solids and concentrations of metals. The filters will improve the quality of the water coming out of the Central Treatment Plant by reducing cadmium by 77%, lead by 99% and zinc by 71% when compared to the current water discharge.



A copy of the study is available on Region 10 web site: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>. Click on "Index", then "B", and then "Bunker Hill site".

Construction work at the Central Impoundment Area (CIA) wrapping up for the winter.

The contractor, IT Group, has placed and covered all of the liner material, but a bit more topsoil is required to complete the closure. Many areas have been seeded and the grass should begin growing next spring. The entire project should be completed by spring 2001. **Contact: Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.**

Construction work at McKinley Avenue: EPA presents check to the City of Kellogg

On November 29, 2000, Chuck Findley, Acting EPA Regional Administrator, traveled to Bunker Hill to view the site cleanup progress and meet with the Bunker Hill Task Force and other com-

(Continued in next column)

munity members. At that meeting, Chuck presented the City of Kellogg with a check for \$542,530 as payment for use and repair to a portion of McKinley Avenue that has been used by the EPA/State project team. Once the project team completes the cleanup activities inside the fence, McKinley Avenue will be ready to re-open for public use. EPA expects the road to re-open within the next year. **Contact: Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.**

Update on Hillsides Revegetation

This past fall, the skies were once again filled by a helicopter spraying grass seeds and soil amendments on hillsides in upper Government Gulch. This effort resulted in 300 acres receiving seed and the necessary nutrients for growth. The total project, when completed, will result in revegetating over 1000 acres of barren hillsides. This will reduce erosion and avoid recontaminating clean areas. Look for more revegetation efforts in 2001. **Contact: Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.**





Summary of results from the Lead Health Intervention Program

During summer 2000, 321 children, between the ages of 9 months and 9 years, who live in Pinehurst, Smelterville, Page, Kellogg, Wardner and Elizabeth Park participated in the Blood Lead Screening Program. The results from this past season's blood screens show that the Lead Health Intervention Program has reached its goal for Smelterville. Of all the children tested in the "Box," 94.7% of them have blood lead levels lower than the goal of 10 ug/dl. Seventeen of 321 children tested in the "Box" have lead levels higher than the desired level.

All children identified with a blood lead level greater than 10 ug/dl will receive follow-up home visits from a Public Health Nurse to identify sources of lead and how to limit lead exposure. The Panhandle Health District offered these children follow up blood screens in December 2000 and January 2001.

Micrograms per liter (ug/L)

The results of some medical tests are reported in micrograms per liter (ug/L). A microgram is one-millionth of a gram. A gram is equivalent to 1/28 of an ounce, less than 1/4 of a tea-spoon. A liter (l) is a measure of volume that is slightly larger than a quart.

The results of the Lead Blood Screening Program are expressed in micrograms per deciliters (**ug/dl**). A deciliter is 1/10 of a liter.

Yard Remediation

The Upstream Mining Group (Asarco Mining, Sunshine Mining and HECLA Mining Company), removed contaminated soil and replaced it with clean soil again this year. The areas include: residential yards, commercial properties and rights of ways in the Pinehurst area. By the end of the season, they completed 200 residential

yards, 15 commercial properties, and 84 rights of way. The Upstream Mining Group will work in the Pinehurst area in 2001. Negotiations have begun with landowners on the scope of work for the 2001 construction season. The total of sites remediated to date for the Bunker Hill project are: 1,802 residential yards, 139 commercial properties, and 190 rights-of-ways. **Contact: Scott Peterson (208) 783-5781.**

West Page Swamp

The Upstream Mining Group capped tailings near the northeast corner of the West Page swamp. They also constructed a small dam or weir for the East Page and West Page Swamps. The weir will help maintain a steady water level all year-round and keep metals from moving down stream. Several more projects will be built next year in preparation for the future diversion of water from Page Sewage Treatment Plant into the West Swamp. **Contact: Scott Peterson (208) 783-5781.**

Institutional controls established for Bunker Hill

Cleanup at Bunker Hill included removing and replacing contaminated surface soils, and placing a visual marker below the depth of excavation, if the concentrations of lead in the soil exceed 1,000 parts per million (ppm). The clean replacement soil will function as a barrier between residents and the underlying contaminated material. Now that the Cleanup at the Bunker Hill is complete or almost complete, it's important to make sure that the soil barrier stays in place.

The Institutional Controls Program (ICP) was implemented to help local communities maintain the clean soil barriers. The ICP is a locally enforced set of rules and regulations designed to keep the clean soil and other protective barriers in place throughout the site. The ICP also provides education, sampling assistance, clean soils for small projects (less than one cubic yard of materials), pickup of soils removed from small



projects and a permanent disposal site for soils generated site wide. Permits are required for all projects associated with excavation, grading soil and work in the interior of buildings that involve duct work, ceiling and /or insulation removal and work in dirt basements and crawl spaces. There are no fees associated with ICP permits or soil disposal.

Further information and a VHS video on the ICP are available at the Panhandle Health District office at 114 West Riverside in Kellogg or by calling (208) 783-0707. Informational handouts may also be downloaded from the Bunker Hill web site.

Government Gulch Cleanup Nearly Complete

Cleanup work on the portion of Government Gulch that runs from the Silver Valley Lab to Interstate 90 that began last spring is now completed. The lower portion of Government Creek was moved from its path through the lumberyard to a path that follows the alignment of Government Gulch road straight to the interstate. At the interstate, a new path will be constructed to parallel Interstate 90 and carry the creek west to the culvert that goes under the freeway.

This project will also include capping of the Mine Timber Inc. lumberyard and Asarco properties located in the vicinity of the old and new creek alignments. The Mine Timber property has not been completely capped because of inclement weather. Work will resume on this piece of the project when the weather improves next year.

Removal of contaminated tailings from the South Fork Coeur d'Alene River upstream of Theater Bridge in Kellogg, was completed in 2000.
Contact: Earl Liverman. (208) 664-4858.

Storm Drain System Installed South of I-90

A storm drain system was installed for the properties located south of Interstate 90, between Page Ponds and the Smelterville off-ramp. The storm drain system will carry water away from contami-

nated tailings, so that we will not need to remove them. Draining this area will make it more suitable for development. The Silver Valley Economic Development Corporation plans to build a business park in the area soon. **Contact: Cami Grandinetti, (206) 553-8696.**

Five Year Reviews Completed for Bunker Hill

Five-year reviews for both the Bunker Hill Populated and the Non-Populated Areas were completed in September 2000. The review looked at the cleanup actions to date, and assessed whether these actions are (and will be) protective of human health and the environment once completed. The overall finding is that the cleanup actions are protective. The report did outline specific recommendations, for improvements that can be made to the cleanup. The full text of the reviews is available at the Bunker Hill repositories or by visiting our web page (see the end of this fact sheet to find locations and web address).

Site History

The Bunker Hill "Box" spans 21-square miles in the heart of the Silver Valley in northern Idaho. More than 6,000 people live within the 21-square mile area in the communities of Kellogg, Smelterville, Wardner, Pinehurst, Page, Ross Ranch, Montgomery Gulch and Elizabeth Park. In 1983, Bunker Hill was added to the National Priorities List (NPL), a list of the nation's top priorities for cleanup. EPA has identified 17 private companies believed to be responsible for site cleanup, some of whom are working under a settlement with EPA and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to support cleanup.

Site cleanup began with early public property/park cleanups in 1986 and yard cleanups in 1989. The smelter complex cleanup project began in 1995. Cleanup decisions are documented in two Records of Decision (RODs). In 1991, the Populated ROD was signed, covering residential and commercial yards cleanup. In 1992, the Non-Populated ROD was signed, documenting cleanup decisions for the rest of Bunker Hill.



More Information

For more information about Bunker Hill and access to all related public documents, you can visit the following information repositories:

Kellogg Public Library:

16 West Market, Kellogg, Idaho 83837

(The Kellogg Public Library holds the entire administrative record -- other local libraries have site information, but do not contain all site files).

Pinehurst/Kingston Library:

107 Main Street, Pinehurst, Idaho 83850

EPA Region 10 Records Center:

1200 6th Avenue, Seattle, Washington 98101

Please visit or call (208-783-5781) the Superfund Project Office located at 1005 W. McKinley Avenue in Kellogg for information, as well.

or call EPA's toll free number 1-800-424-4372

and ask to be transferred to:

Marianne Deppman,

EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Seattle

(206) 553-1237

Sean Sheldrake

EPA Project Manager, Seattle

(206) 553-1220

or call the Panhandle Health District in Kellogg

Jerry Cobb

Environmental Health Supervisor

(208) 783-0707

Web Surfing for EPA Region 10

Check out our homepage at:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth>

Click on "Index", then "B", and then "Bunker Hill site".

Also, <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/BH>

To ensure effective communication with everyone, additional services can be made available to persons with disabilities by contacting one of the EPA numbers above.



United States
Environmental Protection
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SUPERFUND FACT SHEET
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Kellogg, Idaho